

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 20, 2004. Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Claim 27 has been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claim 20 has been amended to define still more clearly what Applicants regard as their invention. Claims 1, 19, 20, 22, and 25 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1-19, 22-24, and 26, and the indication that Claim 27 includes allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form. Claim 27 has been canceled, and its allowable subject matter has been incorporated into independent Claim 20; this action is taken without prejudice or disclosure of subject matter. Consequently, Claim 20 and its dependent Claim 21 are now allowable.

The Office Action rejected Claims 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,254,217 (Askeland); and rejected Claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,601,937 (Hotomi, et al.). Applicants note that the adding of allowable subject matter from cancelled Claim 27 into Claim 20 renders the rejection relating to Claims 20 and 21 moot. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection relating to 25.

Applicants submit that independent Claim 25 is patentably distinct from Hotomi et al. at least for the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 25 is a printing apparatus capable of forming a color image by applying ink materials of plural colors in different amounts onto a print medium while scanning a recording head. In the recording

head, with respect to the ink material of at least one color, first and second arrays of recording elements, in which the recording elements for applying ink materials of different amounts are arranged with a predetermined pitch, are arranged in the direction of the scanning, and, in the first and second arrays of the recording elements, the recording elements for applying ink materials of a same amount are arranged with a displacement by the predetermined pitch in the direction of the array.

Among other important features of Claim 25 is that the recording elements for applying ink materials of a same amount are arranged with a displacement by a predetermined pitch in the direction of the array. The large or small diameter recording elements which eject the same amount of ink, in nozzle arrays of the same color (such as C1 and C2, M1, and M2, etc. shown in Figs. 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8) are arranged with a displacement by a predetermined pitch in the direction of the array, and each of the nozzle arrays (e.g., C1 and C2) of the same color eject the same amount of ink.

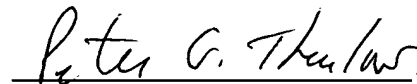
Hotomi et al., as understood by Applicants, relates to an image formation apparatus that can form an image efficiently. The Office Action at page 3 states that Hotomi et al. discloses “. . . recording elements for applying ink in the same amount are arranged with a displacement by the predetermined pitch in the direction of the array.” Applicants note that in Figure 16 of Hotomi et al., a head of a large diameter and a head of a small diameter are provided in each of K, Y, M and C. Although Figure 16 does not show all the heads, it is obvious that the small diameter heads are aligned with each other and the large diameter heads also are aligned with each other. That is, the large or small diameter heads that eject the same amount of ink, in nozzle arrays of the same color, are aligned with each other. Accordingly, the large and small diameter head arrays of the same

color eject respective different amounts of ink. Applicants submit that nothing has been found in Figure 16, or any other part of the specification, that would teach or suggest a printing apparatus where the recording elements for applying ink materials of a same amount are arranged with a displacement by a predetermined pitch in the direction of the array.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Peter G. Thurlow
Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 47,138

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200